

REMARKS

Attached hereto is a verification of a translation of our Japanese priority Patent Application No. 2000-215099 filed on July 14, 2000.

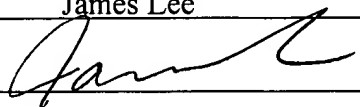
The present claims are rejected as being obvious over a combination of the *Ikeda et al.* (Publication No. US-2001/0055948) with an effective Prior Art filing date of April 9, 2001, and the *Ogino* (Publication No. US-2001/0029173) with an effective Prior Art filing date of April 6, 2001.

It is believed that the above rejection is now mooted since applicant is entitled to at least the priority date of July 14, 2000.

It is believed that the claims presently of record are patentable, and an early notification of the same is requested. If the Examiner believes that a telephone interview will help further the prosecution of this matter, he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on April 16, 2004.

By: James Lee

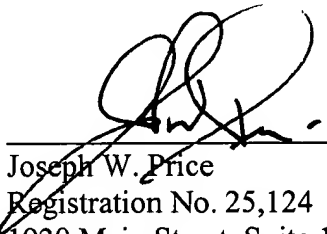


Signature

Dated: April 16, 2004

Very truly yours,

SNELL & WILMER L.L.P.



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